larity of "taxa" perhaps is symptomatic of two things: the appalling modern American eagerness to conform, and the chance to feel oneself a classical scholar of sorts without having to put forth any effort. Probably the most extreme example of an attempt to create the appearance of scholarship without any learning is the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the major portion of which now consists of "push-button" instructions (often contradictory, frequently incorrect, rarely indicative of literary taste or understanding) about Latin and Greek names, for those ignorant of classical languages and, one must assume, obstinate about not trying to learn. The practical unworkability of the multitude of instructions has long been painfully evident in zoological publications. It is obvious to anyone who tries to read through them, but apparently hardly anyone really does. It is a pity that botanists are not better acquainted with the Zoological Code; they would appreciate the great superiority of their own. Some of the worst features of the zoological one are persistently offered for incorporation in the botanical. Among these are proposals to lay down rigid regulations about the handling of Greek and Latin, of which the prescribed plural "taxa" is a minor example. It is neither necessary nor at all desirable to lay down a botanical (or zoological) law for all the minutiae. One cannot escape the fact that a certain amount of literary taste will always be involved. Experience has already shown the impossibility of strict regimentation.

So:—long live taxons, whatever the kind!—Lloyd H. Shinners, Southern Methodist University, Dallas 5, Texas.

Draba lanceolata in the Ottawa District.[1] On May 23, 1947, three immature specimens of an unknown species of *Draba* were collected on the face of the Pre-Cambrian escarpment about ten miles northwest of the city of Ottawa. Up until this time only the easily recognized *Draba nemorosa* L. had been known in the vicinity of Ottawa. This, then, was a species new to the district, but final identification of the immature specimens was not possible.

It was not until July 6, 1956, that an opportunity arose to

[1] Contribution No. 1582 from the Botany and Plant Pathology Division, Science Service, Canada Department of Agriculture Ottawa, Ontario.

revisit the site. This time a sufficient number of mature plants to make several herbarium sheets were obtained. The densely stellate-pannose pubescence on the valves of the mature fruit served to help identify the species as *Draba lanceolata* Royle.

Data are as follows: QUEBEC, Gatineau County, Hull Township, conc. 8, lot 26, high on cliff face of south facing escarpment just west of King Mountain, *Dore, Cody & Breitung 47–35* (DAO); same locality, very rare in moist crevices and in dry moss patches on open faces of Pre-Cambrian rock, ca. 600 feet altitude, *Cody & van Rens 9379* (DAO). Duplicates of the latter collection will be sent to Montreal Botanic Garden, Gray Herbarium and Natural History Museum, Stockholm.

Fernald[2] gives the range of *D. lanceolata* as "Northern and alpine regions of Asia and North America; in America from eastern Quebec to Yukon, locally south to New Brunswick, northern New Hampshire, northern Vermont, Ontario, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado and Utah." The eastern American specimens seen by him are cited and a map showing their distribution is given. The southern Canadian localities given are Nashwaak in New Brunswick, Mt. St. Pierre, Bic and St. Fabien in the Gaspé area of Quebec, and Lion's Head and Dyer's Bay in Bruce Peninsula, Ontario.

Marie-Victorin[3] states that this plant is relict in his area (southern Quebec). It is certainly very rare in the Ottawa District since it has not been located elsewhere in the vicinity in over seventy-five years of botanical collecting, and its occurrence similarly appears to be relict. The site where it occurs is at an elevation of about 600 feet, some 400 feet above the plain the Ottawa River half a mile away. This is just below the presumed maximum level of the Champlain Sea in this area. It would thus appear that *D. lanceolata* reached the locality reported here via cliffs bordering the Champlain Sea. The retreat of that sea and the subsequent invasion of many more aggressive species has restricted *D. lanceolata*, which apparently cannot compete with them, to the open, almost inaccessible faces of the Pre-Cambrian escarpment. Similar habitats along this old shoreline might reveal other, as yet unrecorded, stations for this interesting plant which, in the southern part of its range, appears to be

[2] Fernald, M. L. Draba in temperate northeastern America. Rhodora **36**: 358. 1934.

[3] Marie-Victorin, Frère, Flore Laurentienne. Imprimerie de la Salle, Montreal. 1935.

almost completely confined to cliffs and rocky faces which border present-day and ancient large bodies of water.

Draba lanceolata can now be added to the floras of the Ottawa District and of western Quebec.—W. J. Cody.

Alternanthera in Virginia.—*Alternanthera* (*Amaranthaceae*) is a tropical genus of more than 150 species. Two or three species occur in southeastern United States. One of these, *A. philoxeroides*, Griseb. (*Achyranthes p.*, (Mart.) Standley), is an aggressive weed in moist to wet soil and waterways along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi. It has been introduced along some of the TVA Lakes in Tennessee. The genus is not listed in Gray's Manual, 8th Ed. It was first recorded in the manual range in southeastern Virginia in 1953 as a lawn pest in Hampton, Virginia. It has since been found in Princess Anne and Isle of Wight counties, Virginia. In Princess Anne County it is a pest in an asparagus field. It is believed to have been brought from eastern Carolina with asparagus plants. How or when it was introduced into Isle of Wight County and Hampton is not known. It is well established in both places, especially in southern Isle of Wight County where it has become distributed over a field of several acres. It is commonly known as alligator weed or by some people as alligator grass. It develops short jointed rhizomes very freely. When broken or cut into pieces each joint can develop a plant. Consequently it is difficult to eradicate. Weed killers have been used with varying success. Its control is discussed by Martin, A. C., in Improving Duck Marshes by Weed Control, Cir. 19, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Dept. of Interior. Specimens have been placed in the Gray Herbarium—A. B. Massey, virginia polytechnic institute.